



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office
David Knopf, Director
PO Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
(502) 582-5293 or (800) 928-5277
Email: nassrfoemr@nass.usda.gov

In cooperation with the
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Ryan Quarles, Commissioner

Released: August 15, 2018 · Volume No.37, Issue No. 08 · Published Monthly

Featuring:

Agricultural Prices • Cash Rents • Cattle Inventory • Crop Production • Honey Bee Colonies • Milk Production

Higher Kentucky Soybean Crop Forecasted, Corn Lower

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the August Crop Production on August 10th, showing the soybean production is forecast to be 8 percent higher than 2017. This month's report is the first of the season to forecast row crop production.

"Soybean conditions looked good going into August, but the soybeans need more rain for further crop development," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. "The growing season for most of Kentucky has had below normal temperatures and rainfall. Rainfall has been especially short towards the end of July. By August 5, the soybean crop was rated 71 percent good-to-excellent."

Soybean production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 111 million bushels, up 8 percent from 2017. Yield is estimated at 53.0 bushels per acre, unchanged bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 2.09 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.59 billion bushels, up 4 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 51.6 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 2017.

Corn production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 212 million bushels, down 2 percent from the previous crop. Yield is estimated at 175 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the 2017 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.21 million acres, down 10,000 acres from 2017. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 14.6 billion bushels, down slightly from 2017. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 178.4 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but down 1 percent from 2017.

"After a late start to planting, corn has been growing near or ahead of normal. On August 5, 58 percent of the crop was in dough stage," Knopf added. "Condition ratings during the growing season have been mostly good and excellent. The latest rating was 72 percent good-to-excellent."

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 23.1 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2018. The expected crop for 2018 would be down 3 percent from the previous year. Growers expect a yield of 66.0 bushels per acre, down 11.0 bushel from 2017 and up 1.0 bushels from July. Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.19 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 2017. The United States yield is forecast at 47.9 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushels from last month and down 2.3 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 24.8 million acres, down 2 percent from last year.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 105 million pounds, down 19 percent from 2017. Yield is projected at 1,900 pounds per acre, down 150 pounds from the 2017 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 55,000 acres, down 8,000 acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 133 million pounds, down 17 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 69,800 acres, down 14 percent from 2017. Yields were expected to average 1,905 pounds per acre, down 72 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 35.2 million pounds, down 7 percent from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 16.2 million pounds, unchanged from last year.

Production of **hay** by **Kentucky** farmers is forecast to be down from last year due to lower yields. **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 518,000 tons, 1 percent below the 2017 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 4.62 million tons, down 4 percent from last year.

**CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, AUGUST 1
KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES**

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018 ²	2017	2018		2017	2018
						Jul 1 ¹	Aug 1 ²		
	KENTUCKY								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn ³	1,320	1,310	1,220	1,210	178.0	--	175.0	217,160	211,750
Soybeans ³	1,950	2,100	1,940	2,090	53.0	--	53.0	102,820	110,770
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	480	460	310	350	77.0	65.0	66.0	23,870	23,100
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	2,150	2,240	2.48	--	--	5,325	--
Alfalfa	--	--	150	140	3.50	--	3.70	525	518
Other, All	--	--	2,000	2,100	2.40	--	2.20	4,800	4,620
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	80,500	72,000	2,277	--	2,165	183,300	155,900
Burley	--	--	63,000	55,000	2,050	--	1,900	129,150	104,500
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	11,500	11,000	3,300	--	3,200	37,950	35,200
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,000	6,000	2,700	--	2,700	16,200	16,200
	UNITED STATES								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn ³	90,167	89,128	82,703	81,770	176.6	--	178.4	14,604,067	14,586,485
Soybeans ³	90,142	89,557	89,522	88,862	49.1	--	51.6	4,391,553	4,585,916
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	32,696	32,732	25,291	24,816	50.2	48.0	47.9	1,269,437	1,189,199
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	53,784	55,068	2.44	--	2.33	131,455	128,504
Alfalfa	--	--	16,563	17,351	3.32	--	3.33	55,068	57,778
Other, All	--	--	37,221	37,717	2.05	--	1.88	76,387	70,726
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	321,470	303,680	2,209	--	2,130	710,161	646,752
Burley	--	--	81,500	69,800	1,977	--	1,905	161,140	132,960
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	19,270	18,080	3,089	--	3,029	59,531	54,764
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	7,600	7,500	2,658	--	2,620	20,200	19,650

¹ Commodities with estimates not available are (denoted by "--"). ² Forecasted. ³ Area harvested represents grain. ⁴ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

**Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated,
and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies in Kentucky**

Quarter	Number of colonies ¹	Maximum colonies ²	Lost colonies	Percent lost ³	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ⁴	Percent renovated ⁵
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 17	6,500	7,000	1,300	19	950	430	6
Apr-Jun 17	7,000	7,500	900	12	3,100	590	8
Jul-Sep 17	9,000	9,000	1,600	18	450	700	8
Oct-Dec 17	7,500	7,500	870	12	50	120	2
Jan-Mar 18	5,500	5,500	1,600	29	520	20	(2)
Apr-Jun 18	4,800	6,000	450	8	1,400	560	9

¹ Number of colonies as of January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. ² Number of colonies at the beginning of quarter plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter. ³ Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by maximum colonies. ⁴ Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package. ⁵ Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by maximum colonies. ⁽²⁾ Less than half of the unit shown.

JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT FROM 2017

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of July 1, 2018, totaled 102 million head, 1 percent above the 102 million on July 1, 2017. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 41.9 million, were up 1 percent from 41.6 million on July 1, 2017. **Beef cows**, at 32.5 million head, were up 1 percent from a year ago. **Milk cows**, at 9.40 million, were unchanged from previous year. The 2018 **calf crop** was expected to be 36.5 million, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of the year were estimated at 26.6 million, up 2 percent from the previous year.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2018, and the changes from July 1, 2017, are as follows:

- * All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.3 million, up 1 percent.
- * Beef replacement heifers, 4.60 million, down 2 percent.
- * Milk replacement heifers, 4.20 million, unchanged.
- * Other heifers, 7.50 million, up 3 percent.
- * Steers, weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.5 million, unchanged.
- * Bulls, weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.10 million, up 5 percent.
- * Calves under 500 pounds, 28.4 million, up 2 percent.
- * All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 13.3 million, up 4 percent.

Milk Cows & Milk Production, Selected States & U.S. Preliminary April-June, 2017 - 2018

State	Apr - Jun Milk Cows ¹		Apr - Jun Milk Production ²		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	18 % 17
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	1,752	1,735	10,243	10,289	1.00
IL	93	93	501	499	1.00
IN	187	187	1,104	1,106	1.00
KY	56	56	277	272	0.98
MN	459	454	2,516	2,495	0.99
MO	85	84	344	344	1.00
OH	262	257	1,448	1,415	0.98
TX	513	524	3,106	3,317	1.07
VA	87	84	449	430	0.96
WI	1,279	1,274	7,691	7,747	1.01
US	9,399	9,403	55,344	55,790	1.01

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Livestock Average Prices Received ^{1 2}

Commodity	United States		
	Jun 2017	May 2018	Jun 2018
	<i>\$ / Cwt.</i>	<i>\$ / Cwt.</i>	<i>\$ / Cwt.</i>
All Hogs	62.10	51.50	59.10
Barrows & Gilts	62.70	51.80	59.80
Sows	49.30	43.50	42.00
All Beef Cattle ³	132.00	120.00	112.00
Steers & Heifers ⁴	133.00	122.00	113.00
Cows	76.50	66.20	66.30
Calves ⁵	164.00	165.00	158.00

¹ U.S. prices based on data provided by USDA AMS. ² Only full month prices published starting in January 2015. ³ "Steers & Heifers" and "Cows" combined. ⁴ 500 lbs. and over. ⁵ Under 500 lbs.

Crop Average Prices Received ¹

Commodity	Kentucky		U.S.	
	Jun 2017	Jun 2018	Jun 2017	Jun 2018
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
All Corn (Bu) ²³	3.84	3.97	3.43	3.58
Soybeans (Bu) ²	9.25	10.30	9.10	9.55
Winter Wheat (Bu) ²	(4)	(4)	4.11	5.05
Hay, Alfalfa (Ton)	210.00	215.00	154.00	181.00
Hay, Other (Ton)	110.00	135.00	125.00	121.00

¹ Only full month prices published starting in January 2015. ² Includes contract sales paid during month. ³ Includes yellow and white corn. ⁴ Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately.

2018 AGRICULTURAL CASH RENTS

Cash rent for **Kentucky** agricultural **cropland** for 2018 was \$149.00 per acre. The bordering states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee had cropland rents of \$223.00, \$198.00, \$152.00 and \$98.00 per acre respectively. California led the nation with \$340.00 per acre for all cropland. The national cropland average was \$138.00 per acre, up \$2.00 per acre from 2017.

Pasture cash rent for Kentucky was not published due to publication standards. With regard to pasture cash rent in neighboring states, Illinois was \$39.00 per acre, Missouri was \$33.00 per acre and Tennessee was \$20.00 per acre. The national pasture rent was \$12.50 per acre, unchanged from 2017. Variation between the states was significant. For published counties, Iowa had the highest pasture rent at \$54.00, while Montana reported pasture rent at \$6.30 per acre.

**Cropland Rented for Cash: Average Cash Rent per Acre, 2014 - 2018
by Selected States and U.S.**

STATE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Illinois	234.00	228.00	221.00	218.00	223.00
Indiana	195.00	197.00	192.00	195.00	198.00
Kentucky	148.00	148.00	143.00	145.00	149.00
Missouri	132.00	132.00	129.00	128.00	132.00
North Carolina	84.50	88.50	83.50	88.50	87.00
Ohio	144.00	150.00	150.00	152.00	152.00
Tennessee	101.00	101.00	97.00	98.50	98.00
Virginia	56.00	57.50	57.50	60.00	63.00
West Virginia	40.00	40.00	40.00	42.00	45.00
US Total	141.00	144.00	136.00	136.00	138.00

Internet Access: Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>